

**Memorandum of Understanding
on Collaborative Efforts**

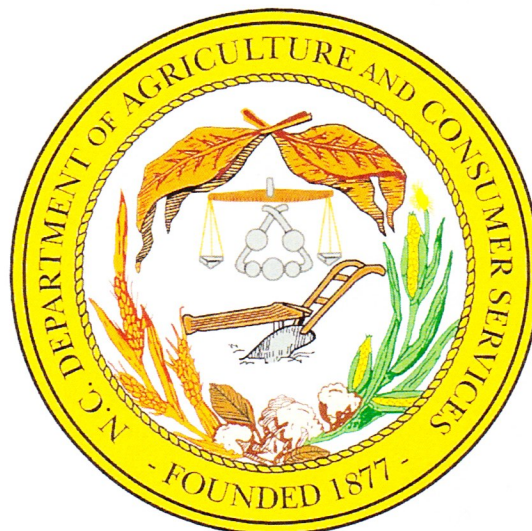
between the

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4**

and the

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

2020



**Memorandum of Understanding on
Collaborative Efforts between the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to formalize and enhance collaboration between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDACS).

The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. The mission of NCDACS is to provide services that promote and improve agriculture, agribusiness and forests; protect consumers and businesses; and conserve farmland and natural resources for the prosperity of all North Carolinians. We share the goal of well-managed, sustainable farms that produce food and fiber for our communities and a clean environment for everyone to enjoy.

This MOU formalizes our partnership and expands our collaborative activities related to communication, education, outreach, and training of agricultural practices that benefit the environment. We amplify our commitment to carry out these activities and to engage the broader agricultural community in the pursuit of solutions for environmental protection and sustainable agriculture that move us forward towards achieving our shared goal.

II. Activities - Together, EPA and NCDACS intend to:

Enhance Communication and Coordination

- Convene annual meetings with EPA Region 4 and NCDACS leadership to communicate priorities and activities, share effective approaches, and identify opportunities to collaborate on issues pertaining to agriculture and the environment.
- Share updates throughout the year on relevant environmental and agricultural programs, policies, and activities to ensure communication and coordination on areas of common interest.

Promote Education and Outreach

- Host Agriculture Roundtables and/or Educational Farm Tours to foster a dialogue between EPA and the agricultural community on the successes, challenges, and opportunities to work together to achieve well-managed, productive farms and a clean environment.
- Participate in agricultural events such as State fairs, farm shows, and technical field days to expand open discussion between EPA and the agricultural community.

Recognize Agricultural Environmental Stewardship

- Recognize farmers for their environmental stewardship efforts that contribute to efficient farms, healthy soils, and clean water. Highlight these achievements to the broader agricultural community.

III. Program Accomplishments and Planning

EPA and NCDACS intend to collaborate on an annual accomplishment report to highlight collective achievements realized under this MOU and plans for the coming year.

IV. Authorities

EPA's participation in this MOU is authorized by Section 102(2)(G) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(G); Sections 104(a) and (b) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1254(a) and (b); and Sections 103(a) and (g) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7403(a) and (g).

V. Limitations

This MOU is a voluntary agreement that expresses the good-faith intentions of EPA and NCDACS. It is not intended to be legally binding, does not create any contractual obligations, and is not enforceable by any signatory agency.

Any commitments by EPA and NCDACS in this MOU are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Nothing in this MOU, obligates EPA to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or incur other financial obligations that would be inconsistent with Agency budget priorities. Except as provided in an EPA assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or other separate agreement between the parties, NCDACS agrees not to submit a claim for compensation for services rendered to EPA in connection with any activities it carries out in furtherance of this MOU. This MOU does not exempt NCDACS from EPA policies governing competition for assistance agreements. Any transaction involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures under separate written agreements.

Nothing in this MOU constitutes an endorsement by any party of the activities, products or services of any party to this agreement, or any other party. The EPA seal, displayed on the cover page of this MOU, may only be used for official EPA purposes, including identifying EPA as a party to this MOU.

This MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity, by persons who are not party to this agreement, against EPA NCDACS, their officers or employees, or any other person. This MOU does not apply to any person outside of EPA and NCDACS.

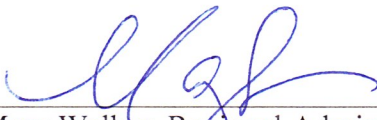
VI. Commencement/Duration/Modification/Termination

This MOU will remain in effect for five years from the signing date. It may be extended or modified through the mutual written consent of the signatories. Either agency may terminate its participation in this MOU by providing written notice to the other agency 30 days in advance of the desired termination date.

VI. Approval:

Representatives of both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the NCDACS sign below on August 25, 2020, in recognition of our commitment to move forward with these collaborative efforts.

Signed:



Mary Walker, Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4



Steve Troxler, Commissioner
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services